

# Houser, Zimmerman, Named To Holstein Hall Of Fame

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A total of 30 homebreds have scored Excellent, helping to maintain the herd's 20-year BAA between 105 to 107 and earning Penn-Dell the Holstein Progressive Breeder award for a quarter-century. Over 30 Penn-Dell young sires have gone into the AI industry.

An all-time herd favorite was the herd's 5-E homebred, Penn-Dell Elevation Rose-Twin, 5E-92, Gold Medal Dam and Dam of Merit. Though she left the herd in 1995, the four generations then in the milking string carry on her genetic contributions. All four generations are Excellent, and all producing over 1,000 pounds of fat. At 14-2, she broke the state record for her age with a 305-day, 2X lactation of 26,910 milk, 1108 fat and 745 protein. She also has several outstanding sisters in the herd.

For more than 30 years, Houser has been active in Holstein activities and leadership. In addition to heading up the PHA as president from 1996-1998, Houser has been a national Holstein delegate, state vice president and state director from Centre County. He is a 4-H dairy leader of more than 30 years and enjoys showing the family's own cattle along with encouraging young people.

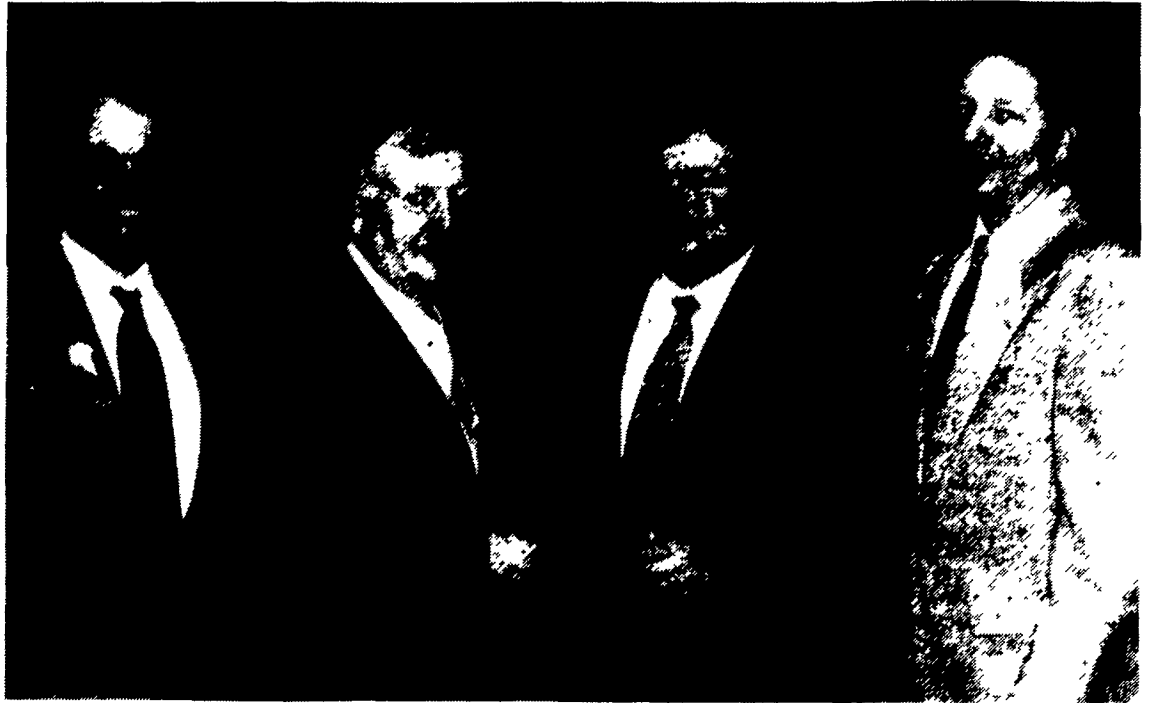
In 1983, Houser was named a Master Farmer and Centre County's Conservation Farmer of the year. He serves on both the county's ASCS and extension boards,

along with numerous other industry leader roles.

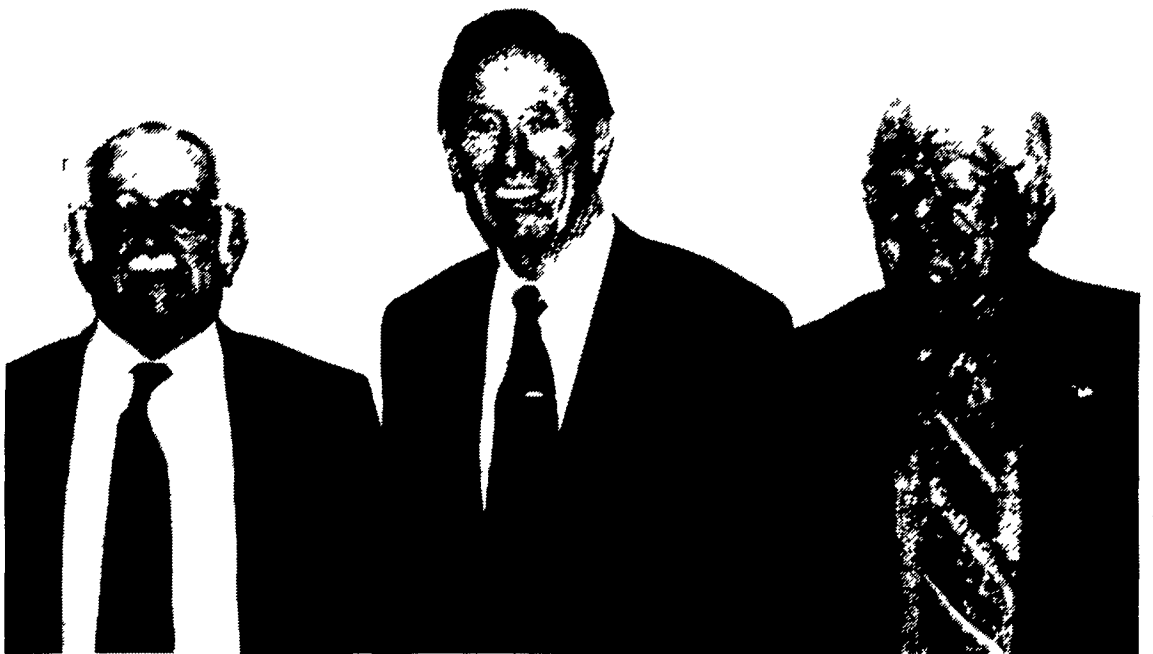
The Housers have five children and five grandchildren. Their son, Jim, and two daughters, Karen and Barb, all continue to be part of the management team at Penn-Dell. Daughter Mary Ellen and her husband Craig Storm are Wisconsin dairy producers, while daughter Sandra and her husband Steve Haragen operate a Centre County dairy herd.



Offering a toast to the Pennsylvania Holstein Association's annual gathering was Pennsylvania State Dairy Princess Nicole Meabon.



New PHA president James Burdette, second from right, accepts the gavel of his office from outgoing president Jay Houser. Completing the officer team are, left, newly-elected treasurer Rick Allen, and vice-president Dean Johnson.



Offering a historical perspective to the 1998 PHA convention were a trio who also attended the first, held in Greensburg in 1955, were, from left, Paul Countryman, Art Nesbitt, and Bill Conyngham.

## Burdette Elected President

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent  
GREENSBURG (Westmoreland Co.)—James Burdette, Mercersburg, is the new president of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, elected to head the state's largest dairy breed organization during its annual meeting, hosted last week in Greensburg by PFA's Southwest District.

Burdette, former vice president of the state Holstein group, assumed the gavel from outgoing president Jay Houser, Spring Mills. The Franklin County dairyman will serve a two-year-term at PHA's helm. Burdette, his wife Nina, and their two sons operate Windy Knoll View farm. Their 76-head milking herd is internationally known for its breeding genetics and showing accomplishments.

"Change will occur, but the challenge will always be to serve the members of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association," promised Burdette in his brief acceptance statement.

Moving up into the vice presidency is former treasurer Dean Johnson, Warren. Richard Allen, Smock, was elected treasurer. Newly-elected to the executive committee are Adam Derr, Dawson, representing the Southwest district, and Steve Vanco, Bear Lake, representing the Northwest district.

In addition to receiving the annual reports, members and guests attending the business meeting had a challenge thrown to them by one of PHA's own junior members. Troy Hartle, 13, public speaking winner at the recent junior PHA convention, shared his award-winning presentation to a standing ovation from the roomful of veteran cattle breeders.

"It's surprising how many times

I have heard, "If you want to be a winner, you have to fix the cow's problem," challenged the Bellefonte-area son of Tom and Lori Hartle.

Hartle related how he had eagerly looked forward to the opportunity to participate in larger cattle shows with his junior animals and learn all he could about showing. At one of his first such events, Hartle noticed a cow being led to the washrack at what he felt was a strange time, only to observe her being led back soon after with a "perfect" udder. He then realized that her udder had probably been injected with a substance to help fill out any hollow or empty looking areas.

Also bothering this junior breeder were the number of adults and experienced show people who suggested that show advantages on his calves could be gained by falsifying birth dates.

"Where is the Ethics Committee at these shows?" he plaintively queried his adult Holstein-breeder audience. "The message being depicted is that, in order to be a winner, you have to lie and cheat." Don't be surprised then, he suggested, if young people lie or cheat, based on what they have seen and heard adults doing in similar circumstances.

"Not everyone cheats," Hartle adamantly stated. "I don't cheat; and I am a winner. In life, there are no gray areas, only black and white."

Members passed several resolutions addressing issues facing the dairy industry, including one supporting the introduction and passage of Dairy Compact legislation in Pennsylvania. One resolution was aimed at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission, requesting efforts be made to dress-up the appearance of the show area dur-

ing the dairy judging events. PHA members also supported a resolution to request the national Holstein Association to provide one free pedigree with each animal registered.

On the industry political side, resolutions were passed supporting former state Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff to the Penn State Board of Trustees and support Mansfield-area breeder Ron

Wood to re-election on the national Holstein Board.

Featured annual meeting speaker was Doug Blair, president and chief executive officer of Alta Genetics. The British Columbia native is an avid Holstein genetics historian and has traced the lineage of dozens of the breed's top animals back to their European cattle ancestry.

Blair noted during his informa-

tive presentation that the whole Holstein breed was originally built from "grade" animals. He told the Pennsylvania breeders that only a few farms have ever had more than one sire appear in the "Top 10" listing since 1979; and, of the top 142 sires inclusive in that listing, 122 of them came from 122 different farms.

"The good ones are rarely from famous herds," Blair concluded.



Serving on the PHA Executive Board are, from left, front: Jay Houser, James Burdette, Dean Johnson, Clyde Bishop, rear, Creddin Cornman, Adam Derr, Steve Vanco, John Burket and Rich Allen.